

REMARKS

Status of the Application

Claims 1-47 are pending, and claims 1, 4-20, 23-39 and 42-47 stand rejected. Claims 2, 3, 21, 22, 40 and 41 are objected to and claims 2, 21 and 40 have been amended. Claims 1, 4-20, 23-39 and 42-47 have been canceled. No claims have been canceled or added. Accordingly, upon entry of the present amendment claims 2, 3, 21, 22, 40 and 41 will be pending in the present application and Applicant thus maintains the patentability of these claims. No new matter has been added by this reply.

Claim Objections

Claims 2, 3, 21, 22, 40 and 41 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but are indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 2, 21 and 40 have been amended to incorporate the limitations of their respective base claims. Thus, claims 3, 22 and 41 now depend on allowable claims 2, 21 and 40, respectively. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection to, and allowance of, claims 2, 3, 21, 22, 40 and 41.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd Paragraph

Claims 10, 29 and 39-47 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Claims 10, 29 and 39-47 have been canceled. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 10, 29 and 39-47 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1, 4-20, 23-29 and 42-47 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,016,398 (“Radigan”). Claims 1, 4-20, 23-29 and 42-47 have been canceled. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of claims 1, 4-20, 23-29 and 42-47 has been rendered moot, and respectfully requests that their rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn.

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PATENT

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims of the present application patentably define over the art of record. Reconsideration of the Office Action and a Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested. In the event that the Examiner cannot allow the present application for any reason, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney, Christos A. Ioannidi at (215) 564-8994, to discuss resolution of any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,



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